

bridges over Second and Third Creeks, the Depot and other buildings at Third Creek Station, all the buildings and a lot of cars at Statesville, the Station House and cars at Icard's, the Depot and cars at the Head of the Road, and a Steam Saw Mill recently purchased and located five miles east of Morganton. The Depots at Catawba, Newton, Hickory Tavern and Morganton are standing. This destruction of property is found, by Engineer's estimate, to amount to \$111,000, at the prices before the war.

I respectfully recommend that application be made to the United States Government for indemnity, since it occurred after the surrender of General Lee and the virtual termination of the war, and, some of it, after the armistice between Gens. Johnston and Sherman.

Counting the wear and tear for the four years of war, during which you have worked, practically, for nothing, and the loss by the torch at its close, your interests have suffered to the extent of a quarter of a million of dollars—gold value. All of the buildings and fixtures were of the best; some of them approaching magnificence. It will not be necessary, in my judgment, if it were practicable, to build so extensively and expensively as before. Much of the old material can be used in the repairs, and by the judicious use of \$20,000 in money now, I think the Road can be successfully operated. I therefore advise that this amount be raised by a loan from the State or from individuals.

There is due from agents \$2,565 79, of which \$377 71 is old debt—the balance Confederate. The United States owes us \$1,500 for mail service before the war, and there is supposed to be a considerable sum due from the former Chief Engineer—I say “supposed to be,” because there are no papers, since the raid, relating to the investigation once had; and after careful inquiry I learn just so much—the committee not making a report, I have had no opportunity of investigating the matter myself, but understand from Mr.